

LOWER SCHUYLKILL MASTER PLAN
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS – ROUND ONE
JANUARY 18TH & 19TH, 2012
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

Principle 1:

- Could you put a refreshment cart along the river?
- The walk to the hospital from Forgotten Bottom is only 5 min, but it's unsafe.
- What about a marina at the 34th Street bridge?
- Gray's Ferry Ave. is barren. It is a no man's land.
- #12 bus has great access to Center City. You can get there in 15-20min.
- The trail is heavily used in the summer. Lots of interest in expansion.
- Need to create trail connections. Want to see trail from South St. to 34th and across the river.
- Need to develop more of a sense of community. Would like to see more retail, restaurants.
- Want more boating and hiking options. People like nature in the City.
- The trail isn't safe at night. Need to add lights to increase sense of personal safety.

Principle 2:

- Airport line – need additional stops to serve the industrial areas. What about airport workers who need to take transit to work?
- Need connections that are more stable between Center City and Schuylkill/Gray's Ferry.
- Trail and Naval Homes development – dramatically improved neighborhoods further north.
- There is good Center City access here - #12 bus and #64 to Columbus Blvd.
- Many people drive up to South St. to walk and bike. There is a missing link in trail.
- Re-use buildings for senior housing to allow residents to remain in their community.
- Create bike connection to FDR – widen and improve safety on a south bound link.
- Long term access to this area is a major issue – need for more highway access and transit connections.
- There is no through access into the sites – exits dump onto bridges. "You can't get there from here".
- This is the biggest opportunity for industrial development in Philadelphia.
- This is the gateway to the City and to the airport – needs beautification and significance.
- Connect this area to the Schuylkill River Trail and FDR park:
 - Include the sports complex and Navy Yard when thinking about trail connections.
 - Make room for bicycles and pedestrians.
- Buses are the easiest and best short term solution for improving transit connectivity in this area.
- Woodland Cemetery is an asset and an obstacle to creating a connection to University City.
- There needs to be easier access from the neighborhood on the west side. Even getting to Bartram's Garden is difficult. We want trail access in the future.
- There is transit access, but it needs to be improved for airport and Center City connections.

Principle 3:

- What kinds of public investment are in the area?

- The closing of the South St. bridge from 2007-2009 was the best thing for the Gray's Ferry neighborhood. It brought folks through the area.
- This plan is great! It will raise my home value and it's good for the neighborhood.
- We take the #12 bus to Schuylkill Banks. It's a great route.
- Can you use the 25th street viaduct as a connector north to Gray's Ferry or south to FDR park?
- What about urban agriculture? We need more community gardens. It's a good temporary use.
- Could you use 49th street as a gateway to the study area? There are two buses, two trolleys and it's an active neighborhood.
- Why does the trail need to go to Fort Mifflin? What about crossing at Passyunk and connecting down to FDR? Then take the Navy Yard trail to the Delaware?
- University Ave. parcels along 34th street, north of Sunoco are important.
- Sunoco Adventure Park? Amusement rides, zipline, rock climbing, etc. – generate revenue on east side of Sunoco property.
- Or put adventure park south of Bartram's to get people down the trail (or else why would people go south of Bartram's on the trail?).
- Event planning, weddings, celebrations in existing industrial buildings?
- Use Sunoco tanks at the base of the Platt Bridge as canvases to showcase Philadelphia industry (e.g. literally paint on them). This is a way to improve the gateway.
- Develop flex space in the north for connection to University City.
- South: manufacturing to support GPIC.
- What is the future of the Automall? Would be good for supporting uses, but it has a strong citywide identity. We don't want to lose that.

Principle 4:

- WE NEED GROWTH!
- Could you take the trail down 25th Street?
- More boat slips for recreation. We'd love to use the river.
- More recreation. People need to discover the river.
- What about a nature learning center for kids that is part of Heinz?
- The condition of the river is important for recreation. Right now it's not so attractive.
- Bartram's Garden is too isolated. I live in the area and I have only been there twice.
- What about breaking down the bulkheads to return the river to its natural condition?
- Make Bartram's bigger. Migratory birds to N. estuary? Birding is an economic opportunity.
- Nature center for adult and child education, habitats, solar energy.
- Would like a picnic area on east side of river.
- Star gazing – telescopes.
- Create trail loop to east side of river south of Bartram's.
- Interest in environmental education.
- Could Ft. Mifflin be a destination by water (taxi)?

Principle 5:

- Vacancies along Gray's Ferry Avenue. It's a key to vibrancy/activity in the area and across the river.
- Need more public riverfront access

- Improve visibility to Gray's Ferry Crescent – hard to see entrances, small signs.
- Future of Sunoco: What's the impact on the Gray's Ferry community? There will be job loss, but it's also an opportunity.
- Future of Freight Rail: It is well used. There are access issues, but it could be a potential use as an industrial link, job growth.
- Transportation issues – access limitations must be addressed before you can attract industry.
- National Heat & Power site – R&D jobs, some extension of one of the universities:
 - Keep as much open and green as possible. Not large enough for big industry.
 - Might need it to get future rail alignment if northeast corridor ever gets re-thought.
- Look at non-industrial uses around 58th St., south of Bartram's Garden. The charter school is there. Not compatible with industry.
- Need a range of jobs all along the site for the adjacent neighborhoods.
- Growth is good.
- Potential spinoff businesses related to Produce Market.
- CHOP's new building – could be the start of a health-related hub that crosses the river.
- Jobs at the Navy Yard need better transit and bike connections.
- Create transit loop from University City.
- How many jobs would development of this area create?
- How do you plan for the Sunoco departure?
- Will this info be put on a website?
- What kinds of businesses are you trying to attract here>
- Is the goal to attract a local businesses here?

Principle 6:

- Swing bridge closed and used for trail connection.
- Cap pollution on the site; use for some recreational uses, in addition to industrial reuse.
- The environment map is confusing. Size of circles?
- Remediation – good. Do it.
- How clean is the area? What is being cleaned up?
- Desire for wetlands.
- Natural habitats – restoration
- Interpretive trail/park (education)
- How does remediation occur?